

# **SICC MEETING MINUTES**

## **TRUMAN BUILDING, ROOM 400**

### **JANUARY 12, 2007**

#### **Members Present**

Senator Scott T. Rupp  
Carissa Mattern  
Lisa Robbins  
Wendy Witcig  
Valeri Lane

Leslie Elpers  
Kathy Fuger  
Joyce Jackman  
Amy Kessel  
Melinda Sanders

Ron Berg  
Linda Bohrer  
Elizabeth Spaugh

#### **Members Not Present**

Paula Nickelson  
Dr. Patsy Carter  
Doug Ommen

Paula Neese  
Kim Oligschlaeger  
Margaret Franklin

Stacey Owsley

#### **DESE Staff Present**

Dale Carlson  
Bill Connelly

Margaret Strecker  
Mary Corey

Judy Goans

**Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions** – Lisa Robbins called the meeting to order at 8:45. Introductions were made. Lisa announced that the meeting may need to be shortened due to the impending bad weather. Ron Berg introduced Debra Fiasco with the Department of Mental Health who will replace him on the SICC beginning on March 1.

**Approval of SICC Minutes** – Wendy Witcig moved to approve the minutes and Ron Berg seconded the motion. The council discussed whether or not the minutes needed to be maintained at the level of detail contained in the November document. A recommendation was made that the minutes of the November meeting be re-written and not posted on the DESE website until they have been approved at the March SICC meeting. The council voted on the motion. The minutes were not approved.

Val Lane moved that the November minutes be revised and then be brought forth at the March meeting for approval. Kathy seconded the motion. Motion approved.

**SPP/APR Report (see handout)** – Mary Corey presented a Power Point overview of the draft State Performance Plan (SPP) and Annual Performance Report (APR) prepared for submission to the U.S. Department of Education on February 1, 2007. The APR covers the 2005-06 fiscal year. The SPP is a six year plan and addresses 14 indicators as required by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). Mary informed the council that the APR may be used by the SICC for their annual report to OSEP. Both the SPP and the APR will be available on the DESE website for public reporting.

The council requested that next year's draft report be provided earlier so they would have additional time to review the report before giving their comments. Mary indicated that next year's report should be available in November barring any late changes to requirements and/or

format from OSEP. DESE will review the data on a quarterly basis during the year and should be able to compile the final report from those reviews.

DESE announced that a reliability study is currently being conducted to determine the validity of the parent survey data.

A parent newsletter is currently in the planning stages with Missouri Parents Act (MPACT). The content would include inspirational stories and links to information that may assist families in the First Steps system. DESE would like to distribute the newsletter with the monthly Explanation of Benefits (EOB) so that no additional costs will be incurred. DESE will also post this newsletter to the DESE website.

The council discussed whether an RICC could organize itself in a manner that would allow the group to raise funds and hire a staff person to assist with child find activities within the region. Several members felt that there was a need for the RICC to be more involved with child find activities. Joyce Jackman said that the RICC is not responsible for child find but is expected to assist the SPOE with planning for the needs of the region. The role of the RICC is to help the SPOE identify the child find activities for the region. Wendy Witcig recommended that, in the next fiscal year budget requests, more should be done to allocate funds for child find activities in the state. A member asked what the SICC could do to get that suggestion in the next budget requests. Joyce suggested that a letter of recommendation could be drafted to the Commissioner at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

Dale stated that there is no increase in the budget request for next year (FY08). The program has sufficient money in the budget for FY 07 to implement a mileage reimbursement. The current priority for the First Steps program is to establish an adequate provider base to support the program statewide.

The SPP/APR must be finalized for submission and the SICC must sign the certification statement by February 1. A copy of the Part C SPP/APR report will be e-mailed to each member of the SICC. Members must reply to the e-mail from the council co-chairs with a yes or no vote on accepting the report as the SICC annual report by next Friday (January 19<sup>th</sup>). Any comments must also be submitted by that date. DESE will hold a conference call with the co-chairs, if needed, regarding revisions. Should the SICC not agree with the report, they can sign the certification and add an addendum, they can say that they agree with a specific percentage of the report but not all of it or they can develop their own report.

Senator Rupp requested that “Old Business” be moved to the next item on the agenda. Senator Rupp’s motion was seconded by Carissa Mattern. The motion passed.

**Old Business** - Senator Rupp addressed the SICC regarding recent meetings he conducted across the state in order to educate himself regarding the issues and concerns within the First Steps program. He expressed concern over the misinterpretation of his actions by some members of the council. He indicated that his meetings were in line with his position as a state senator. He also informed the group that he met with Joyce to discuss the issues and better educate him regarding the First Step program.

Joyce reported that she will develop a template for the RICC and SPOEs to use when reporting to the SICC. This template will be provided to them before the next meeting.

Joyce reported that DESE is in discussion with NECTAC to facilitate a stakeholder group tasked with looking at provider issues in the state. Members of the stakeholder group will come from the following groups: provider groups that have left the First Steps program, SPOE representatives, RICC representatives, SICC representatives, DMH, consultants, provider agencies, independent providers, DESE staff, and other individuals with an understanding of the provider issues within the state. The February and March trainings with Robin McWilliam will need to be completed before these discussions begin; therefore, the target date for the first meeting is late April.

Joyce requested that the SICC March meeting be rescheduled from March 9 to March 2 to accommodate those wishing to attend the Conference on the Young Years. The SICC agreed to move the March meeting date.

**DESE Updates** – Provider mileage reimbursement will be implemented on February 1 and providers will be able to bill for every mile they travel to perform services at 30 cents per mile. We need to see what impact a mileage reimbursement will have on recruiting and keeping providers.

**Budget Report** – (see handout) – Dale stated that the First Steps program has an adequate balance to support the program for the remainder of this fiscal year. A short discussion was held concerning the budget report.

Val Lane moved to adjourn the meeting early due to weather conditions. Wendy Witcig seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned early at 12:25.